NOTE ON THE FOREGOING, BY PROFESSOR HOLDEN.

Those who are interested in the matter discussed by Mr. RITCHIE should note, *first*, that if the "relations are obscured" by anything which I have written, the obscuration was not intentional, as I took special pains to say in private letters addressed both to Dr. CHANDLER and to him; *second*, that the facts I give are all from official sources; and, *third*, that Mr. RITCHIE points out that the official correspondence as printed does not present the story in all its details. Mr. RITCHIE'S note should, then, be read in connection with the official papers from which I quoted. EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

ELEMENTS AND EPHEMERIS OF COMET *b*, 1896.

COMMUNICATED BY FREDERICK H. SEARES.

The following elements of Comet *b*, 1896, have been computed by Professor A. O. LEUSCHNER and myself:

$$\left.\begin{aligned} T &= \text{April } 17.6516 \text{ Gr. M. T.} \\ \omega &= 1^\circ\ 45'\ 5'' \\ \Omega &= 178\ 15\ 31 \\ \pi &= 180\ 0\ 36 \\ i &= 55\ 35\ 26 \end{aligned}\right\} 1896.0.$$

$$\log q = 9.75307$$

O—C. $\Delta\lambda \cos\beta = -1''.2$. $\Delta\beta = +4''.4$.

These elements are based upon observations made at the LICK Observatory by Professors HUSSEY and AITKEN on April 16th, 17th, and 19th, which were telegraphed to the Students' Observatory by Dr. HOLDEN. They do not present any special resemblance to any of the elements given in the available comet catalogues. The following ephemeris has also been computed.*

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
Students' Observatory, 1896, April 22.

OBSERVATIONS OF DARK MARKINGS ON *VENUS*, 1889.

BY EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

During the months of May and June, 1889, I examined the surfaces of the planets *Uranus*, *Saturn*, *Venus*, and *Mercury* on

* The ephemeris (for every day from April 23.5 to May 25.5) is omitted here.—*The Committee on Publication.*